

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM

FISCAL YEAR 2011

Instructions

1. Please complete the entire form. **All fields are required.**
2. Please do not **bold**, underline, or *italicize* responses.
3. Request forms must be submitted as a Word document.
4. All completed request forms and any supplemental materials must be submitted via email to: Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov
5. Please do not send more than one request per email.
6. All completed request forms must be submitted no later than **Friday, February 26, 2010.**
7. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your request within 48 hours of submission, please contact Stephanie Cappa in Congressman Blumenauer's Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4811.

PLEASE NOTE: All appropriations requests submitted to Congressman Blumenauer's office will be made public on his website, as required by the House Committee on Appropriations.

Project Details

1. **Project title:** Child Investment Initiative
2. **Organization name and address** (the recipient of the funds):
Friends of the Children – Portland
44 N.E. Morris
Portland, OR 97212
3. **Contact information**
 - a. **Project's primary contact:** Terri Sorensen
 - b. **Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:** 503-281-6633
 - c. **Email Address:** tsorensen@friendsofthechildren.org
 - d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address): N/A
4. **Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.**

The mission of Friends of the Children – Portland is to provide our most vulnerable children a nurturing and sustained relationship with a professional mentor who teaches positive values and has attainable expectations for each child to become healthy, productive members of the community.

Founded in Portland in 1993, Friends of the Children (FOTC) is a revolutionary mentoring program that provides our community's most vulnerable children with an opportunity to realize their individual potential and inherent worth. Our unique program proactively identifies kindergarten-aged children living in disadvantaged circumstances who already exhibit issues of concern in the classroom, and pairs them with paid, professional mentors (called Friends) for 12 ½ years, through their high school graduation date. Despite the considerable challenges our constituency faces, FOTC has been

remarkably successful at helping them achieve high school completion, and avoid the juvenile justice system and teen parenting.

Every interaction that a Friend has with a child is intentional with three long-term goals in mind; goals that we set forth for each child in our program. The success of our strategic, long-term approach to mentoring has been demonstrated by the results of annual third-party program evaluation:

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
Success in school with a minimum of a H.S. diploma (preferred) or GED	Avoid involvement in the juvenile justice system	Avoid early parenting
FOTC Success Rate*	FOTC Success Rate*	FOTC Success Rate*
92% attend school regularly; 82% of our program graduates have earned a H.S. diploma or GED while more than 40% of our youth have a parent that did not complete H.S.	95% have avoided the juvenile justice system despite at least 60% having one or more parents who have been incarcerated	99% of adolescents avoid early parenting despite at least 60% having been born to a teen parent

*NPC Research Annual Report 2009

“[Friends of the Children] could change the way this country tries to help its children.”
- Gary Walker, President Emeritus of Public Private Ventures

FOTC has been recognized nationally for its innovative approach to mentoring. Portland is the founding chapter of a seven site national network, and our national office has received federal funding through the Department of Education.

In 2007, interest in our unique model led the National Institutes of Health to award \$2.9 million to Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC) and Public Private Ventures (P/PV) to conduct the first 5-year phase of a longitudinal study of the FOTC program. The goal of the study is to use gold-standard methodology to definitively demonstrate the efficacy of the FOTC model, as well as fill current gaps in mentoring research. We expect the results to place FOTC at the forefront of a national movement highlighting a need for high quality, long-term mentoring among youth at highest risk of school failure, involvement in the justice system, and perpetuating the cycle of teen parenting and poverty.

Friends of the Children was founded by Portland entrepreneur and visionary philanthropist Duncan Campbell. Having grown up as an at-risk child himself, he wanted to contribute to the impoverished, inner city community in which he was raised. Duncan was recently awarded a 2009 Purpose Prize in acknowledgment of his work with Friends of the Children.

5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?

Friends of the Children – Portland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?

Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (no more than 500 words).

The FOTC model is based on research which shows that children who have succeeded in spite of adverse environmental conditions have done so because of the close, sustained support of a caring adult. Working with no more than eight young children, a “Friend” regularly spends one-on-one time with each child providing academic support, setting short-term goals, teaching life skills, modeling healthy behavior and problem solving, nurturing interests and talents, and exposing them to new places and experiences. We continue to provide this support for 12 ½ years, through high school graduation. The elements that make our model unique to other mentoring programs include:

1. We employ professional mentors.
Friends are full-time, trained, paid professionals who are hired for their experience and talent for working with high-risk children.
2. We intervene early (age five or six).
Taking a preventive approach allows us to build on our children's strengths before various systems accentuate their weaknesses.
3. We use a rigorous selection process.
In collaboration with partners schools, children are identified who are truly the most vulnerable and in highest need of the intensive support of a *Friend*; children who lack family structure, who are not connected to school in a meaningful way, and who have been exposed to drug use, domestic violence, and gang activity in their families and communities.
4. Our mentors spend time with children frequently.
Friends spend an average of 16 hours per month with each child, which allows them to develop trust and close one-on-one relationships.
5. We are long-term.
Research shows that short-term mentoring relationships can in fact cause harm to the most at-risk children. We are committed to providing children with a Friend from kindergarten through high school, even as they move within 30 miles of Portland.

In 2006, Friends of the Children – Portland completed a community assessment of need for the intensive, professional mentoring we provide. Based on risk factors that impede success, we found that more than 5,000 youth (K-12th grade) in the Portland Public School District alone could have benefited from a relationship with a Friend. Since that time, as the economy has steadily worsened, the need for our services has only increased. In addition, many low-income families have relocated to outer SE and East Portland, including nearly 40% of our current participants.

In response to this assessment, Friends of the Children – Portland has a strategic plan in place that will expand our program to reach more of our community's most vulnerable children. This plan outlines growth from 350 children in 2010 to nearly 475 by 2015, while also maintaining our high standard of program quality. This request would employ paid, professional mentors and help us reach significantly more vulnerable children.

8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

“...mentors commit their time and energy to kids who may otherwise lack a positive, mature influence in their lives. Their impact fulfills critical local needs that often elude public services.”

- President Barack Obama¹

Friends of the Children serves the most vulnerable children in our community who are born into circumstances that create multiple barriers to their success. Some examples of the challenges they face include:

- 93% or more qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 70% are racial minority (50% African American)
- 70% have at least one parent with a known history of substance abuse
- 60% have one or more parents that have been incarcerated
- At least 50%
 - o are known to have been impacted by domestic violence
 - o have had a report of abuse or neglect filed on their behalf

The entire community benefits from preventing at-risk youth from perpetuating cycles of violence, crime, lack of education, and teen parenting. The economic recession has had the gravest impact on those who were already in living in or near poverty. With more families struggling to make ends meet, the number of children in need of a Friend has increased.

Graduating from high school, and avoiding the justice system and teen parenthood also results in significant financial benefits for society. In early 2010, through a partnership with the Harvard Business School Association of Oregon, Friends of the Children – Portland completed an assessment of the Return on Investment (ROI) for our program. The in-depth, yet conservative ROI model is based on the rate of attainment of our three program outcomes by program graduates over and above youth with similar racial and economic make-up that do not participate in our program.

The ROI assessment found that our program yields significant savings and economic benefits to society in the short, medium, and long-term. Our preventive, early intervention model results in more than \$830,000 in economic benefits to society over each young person’s lifetime, which is a return of \$6.70 for every dollar invested in each program child. More than thirty percent of these benefits are realized by the time a program graduate reaches the age of 28, primarily through avoidance of involvement in the juvenile and adult justice systems and teen parenthood (which incur heavy costs early in life). The economic impact of educational success is cumulative over a lifetime, realized through the earning potential of a better educated workforce.

Friends of the Children - Portland employs 64 staff, including 42 mentors. Funding through this request would be used to sustain and grow our core programming in the following ways:

- Add three new full-time, professional mentors to our payroll
- Support the retention of three mentors, and
- Provide 48 highly vulnerable children with the intensive support of a Friend.

¹ *Obama proclaims National Mentoring Month.* United Press International. January 5th, 2010.

In a time of significant cut-backs across all sectors, Friends of the Children – Portland has thus far been fortunate in avoiding the need to cut jobs through a commitment to disciplined spending. This allocation would ensure that goals for future growth are met. Investing in financially healthy organizations like Friends of the Children – Portland which fill a vital community need will also help carry our most vulnerable citizens through this period of economic uncertainty.

9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

No. However, the National Office of Friends of the Children received \$305,000 in appropriations funding in FY 2009 (Department of Education).

9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

Funding Details

10. Amount requested for this project:

\$300,000

11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

Salaries & Wages	\$422,000
Benefits & Taxes	113,950
Additional Direct Program Costs (activities, transportation, etc.)	51,840
Technology, Data Maintenance & Facilities	15,250
Training & Evaluation	13,000
TOTAL:	\$616,040

12. What is the total cost of the project?

\$616,040

13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?

Yes

14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)

Other local committed funders for FY 2011 include Meyer Memorial Trust, Northwest Health Foundation, Silver Family Foundation, and the Portland Children's Levy (City of Portland). Total local funds committed to this project = \$316,300

15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.

Support/endorsements include but are not limited to that of: Portland Public School District, David Douglas School District, Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Social Learning Center, and Social Venture Partners - Portland (see attached letters of support).

Please return this form no later than Friday, February 26, 2010 via email to:

Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Stephanie Cappa, 202-225-4811, Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov

Oregon Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, 503-231-2300, Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov